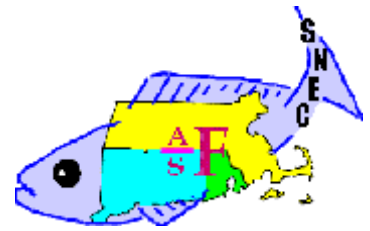


THE SOUNDER



Newsletter of the American Fisheries Society, Southern New England Chapter Fall / Winter 1997

Message from the President

As we move toward 1998 your SNEC Board of Directors has been busy with a number of initiatives important to all chapter members.

First and very important, our winter chapter meeting will be held on January 21st at the new Center for Economic and Environmental Development at Roger Williams University (RWU) in Bristol, Rhode Island. Dr. Mark Gould, Director of the Center, will be hosting the meeting and is eager to show off this new facility to chapter members. He sees this meeting as an opportunity for RWU students and faculty to become more involved with AFS and SNEC. We have scheduled this meeting in January with the goal of improving student and faculty attendance. We have also reserved the morning session of the meeting for student research papers. I have personally contacted many faculty members in colleges and universities in MA, CT & RI inviting them and their students to the meeting.

A major initiative during my tenure as Chapter President is to increase both student and faculty participation in the chapter. So let's show them how important they are to our chapter by improving our own attendance!! Program and registration information is enclosed with this newsletter.

Probably the most important activity of the chapter this coming year is our involvement in AFS '98, the parent society annual meeting this August 23-27th in Hartford. Rick Jacobson is our chapter liaison to the AFS '98 Planning Committee. As a co-sponsor of the meeting, SNEC will be responsible for three activities.

First, our most ambitious activity will be setting up and staffing the AFS '98 Information Booth. This will be a ready source of conference and local area information for meeting attendees. We are planning to incorporate our chapter display into this area which will give SNEC regional and national exposure. We will be soliciting chapter members to staff the booth; if you are interested please contact me or any member of the SNEC Board.

Second, we will be sponsoring a major social event at AFS'98 celebrating our chapter's 30th Anniversary. Carolyn Griswold has volunteered to chair this activity. If you know Carolyn you can be assured that this event will be fabulous!!!

Finally, the chapter will be providing the AFS '98 T-shirt. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to increase SNEC exposure nationally and provide our treasury with some much needed revenue. Lesa Meng is the chair for this effort. As a former "fish artist", before becoming a fish ecologist, I'm confident Lesa will provide us with a quality and irresistible t-shirt!!!

In closing, SNEC IS alive and well, but we MUST strive to do better if we are to successfully bring our chapter into the next millennium. Each and every one of us must do our part. Participate in chapter activities, come to chapter meetings, present a paper and encourage your colleagues and students to get involved!! We need you!!

If you have comments on our Chapter please e-mail them to me at cpowell@wsii.com.

On behalf of your Board of Directors I would like to wish you and your family a happy and joyous holiday season.

Chris Powell

President, Southern New England Chapter

Inside This Issue:

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- < Environmental Affairs Committee News
- < Award Information
- < Student Membership Grants
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- < SNEC Important Issues Survey

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Affiliate Membership or Not?

During the past year, the SNEC Executive Committee and Board of Directors has been discussing the advantages and disadvantages of allowing non-AFS members to become Chapter members. Of the 50+ chapters in the US and Canada there are only a few that still require AFS membership in order to be a chapter member. This issue was presented to the SNEC membership at the annual chapter business meeting last June in Woods Hole. **The Board of Directors would like to bring this issue to a vote at the June 1998 SNEC business meeting.** Approval needs a 2/3 majority vote of those present at that time. A mail ballot will also be included in the newsletter prior to that meeting. To better inform all SNEC members about this important potential change to our chapter membership I would like to present the advantages and disadvantages of affiliate membership:

ADVANTAGES:

- , The Chapter would serve a larger audience and meet the needs of many fisheries professionals who choose not to join AFS for any number of reasons, but would probably join the Chapter.
- , We could actively recruit affiliate members for AFS through a positive experience with the Chapter.
- , Affiliate membership would increase Chapter revenues. This is important if the parent society continues to eliminate chapter rebates which constitute a substantial portion of our annual SNEC budget.
- , SNEC membership would be affordable to a broader audience especially lower salaried employees and students.
- , We could broaden our membership to secondary fields like engineering, wildlife and education.

DISADVANTAGES:

- , Non-AFS affiliate chapter membership could pull present and potential members away from the parent society and eventually weaken the parent society.
- , Affiliate members would not receive parent society publications, an important aspect of maintaining a level of professionalism.
- , Chapter would have to collect dues from these members and will have to generate its own mailing list and labels for non-AFS members. Presently the parent society provides these services.
- , Affiliate membership could create a preceived double standard and possibly conflict with some members.
- , Potential decline in professionalism, affiliate members may not be as dedicated as regular members.

Please take a few moments to consider the advantages and disadvantages of an Affiliate Membership to the Southern New England Chapter. **You will be asked to vote on this**

important issue by mail ballot or paper ballot at the next annual chapter business meeting.

Member Comments: Some comments on the Affiliate Member Issue were made at the summer business meeting. John Kocik summarized and presented these points here to provide further insight and ideas for your consideration.

"I am not a member of AFS because of their advocacy stance, However, I would join at the Chapter level as an affiliate member. I also feel that many other local non-AFS members would also support the Chapter."

"I support affiliate membership based on my personal experiences with larger Chapters in Michigan and New York and my perception of affiliate membership as a recruitment tool and a grassroots activity of the Society as a whole."

"I oppose affiliate membership status, because it has a clear effect on the Chapter's membership at the Parent Society Level. For example, New York only has as many parent level members as the SNEC."

"I feel that the development of an affiliate membership category weakened the professionalism of AFS as a whole because the highest value professional services - journals and Fisheries are available only at the parent level. The strength and financial well being of the parent society are critical to the effective transfer of information through these channels."

"The SNEC has done an excellent job of recruiting individuals to the Parent Society and is well represented by individuals at the national level. I feel that this has been to the benefit of the Society more than the Chapter. The Chapter and therefore the Society can only expand if we open up to outside people, actively recruiting professionals. As such, I am in favor of encouraging affiliate membership as a tool to recruit members."

"The fisheries world is expanding to the other professional organizations out there. As such, opening up affiliate membership would encourage other local professionals such as foresters, land managers, engineers, and others to join at the local level. This would allow our profession to get our message out to other professionals that we work with on a daily basis."

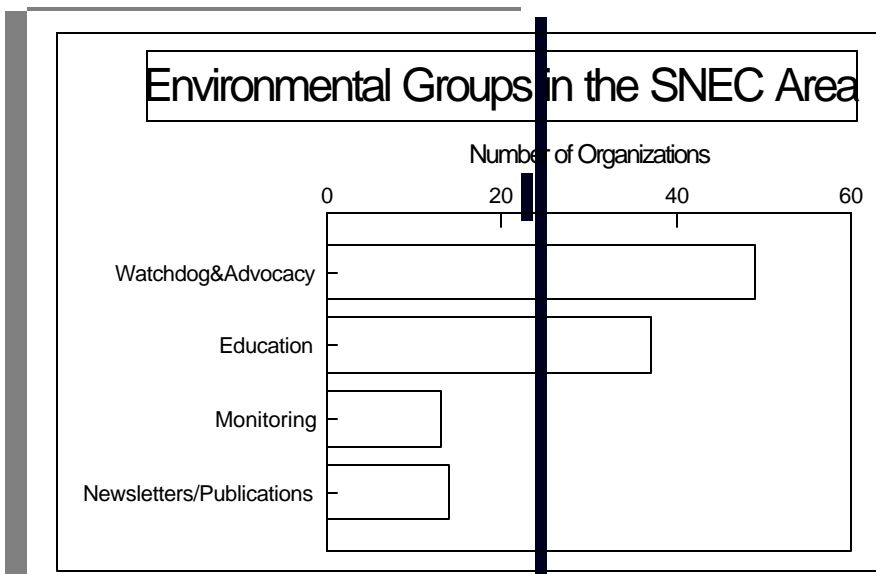
"The SNEC has a more narrow focus that could more easily service a broader constituency and could bring in more revenue to the Chapter. With our narrower (geographic) focus we could expand an effective outreach to other professionals

to get them involved.”

The overriding question appeared to be if an affiliate membership will bring in people that would not join the Parent society while serving as a recruiting tool for AFS, or if it would simply cause a loss of membership at the parent society level.

Environmental Affairs Committee

The Environmental Affairs Committee has constructed a database which allows us to compare the activities and interests of environmental organizations in the three-state area (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) with those of the chapter membership. Beginning with a membership survey completed in 1995, we listed the primary activities of 197 chapter members and then compared that list to information on 164 organizations which we judged to have some common ground with the mission and goals of the Southern New England AFS chapter. This comparison should tell us how well the public's interests and



concerns mirror that of the chapter membership. The plan is to promote information flow and a pooling of resources where interests overlap.

Although most members say that their dominant work activity is research, fisheries management or administration, many are also involved in communicating with the public. Better than one in three (38% of those responding) currently give talks or presentations, usually to several different age groups of kids as well as adults. Another 14% said they would be willing to give talks about their work or field of expertise. That means that half

(52%) the membership is out there telling the public about fisheries issues and how their work is addressing them. If you are one of those members, CONGRATULATIONS! You are providing a vital link to a public very concerned about the health of their fisheries and the quality of their water.

In the Chapter's tri-state area there are over 100 organizations involved in education, advocacy, and data gathering at the local level. Many of these organizations are actively seeking information about such things as local fish abundance, water quality and flow conditions. If you haven't ventured out to meet some of these groups you should! AFS members are a store-house of information. The public needs to share this knowledge; to understand what an annual abundance index is, what reduced summer flows can do.

A full listing of the groups, their address, phone number, and brief activity description is available by contacting Penny Howell (CT DEP Marine Headquarters, PO Box 719, Old Lyme CT 06371, 860-434-6043, penny.howell@po.state.ct.us) or Ruth Haas-Castro (NMFS NEFC Woods Hole, MA 02543, 508-548-5123, rhaas@whsun1.wh.whoi.edu).

SAVE A TREE? WHAT DO YOU THINK???

We would like to offer SNEC members the option of receiving the newsletter electronically rather than in printed hard copy form. This would reduce duplication and mailing costs. You have three choices for the form in which you receive your newsletter: (1) hard copy mailed to you; (2) copy sent as an attachment to an e-mail message; or (3) access it on the SNEC homepage (an e-mail will be sent to you alerting you that the newsletter has been posted). If you do not notify me, then you will continue to receive the newsletter in hard copy form through the mail. If you would like to try approach #2 or #3 just let me know:

Mary Colligan
NMFS, Protected Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978) 281-9116 FAX (978) 281-9301
Mary.A.Colligan@noaa.gov

Thank you for your consideration!!!

1998 AFS Meeting Symposia Proposals

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) will convene its 128th Annual Meeting at the Hartford Civic Center and Sheraton Hotel in Hartford, Connecticut. The meeting theme is "Challenges for the New Millennium: Shaping the Future of Fisheries Science and the Fisheries Profession." The scientific program will include two types of sessions: symposia (including workshops and panel discussions) and contributed paper/poster sessions.

The Program Committee for the 1998 AFS Annual Meeting invites proposals for symposia from individuals or groups. Topics should be related to the 1998 meeting theme or should be of general interest to AFS members. In addition to serving as session moderators, symposium organizers are responsible for recruiting speakers, soliciting their abstracts, and submitting speaker abstracts as one packet. Symposia proposals should be submitted by e-mail or 3.5" diskette and **must be received no later than December 15, 1997**. To be considered for review, proposals must comply with the 1998 AFS format for symposia described below. Accepted symposia outlines will require a final electronic submission of confirmed speakers and titles before final acceptance into the program by February 2, 1998. Abstracts for approved symposia speakers (in the same format as contributed papers) are due by February 27, 1998.

Format for 1998 Symposia Proposals

1. Title: Brief but descriptive.
2. Organizer(s): Provide name, address, phone, fax, and e-mail for all organizers. Indicate by asterisk the name of the person who should be contacted regarding acceptance and scheduling of the proposed symposium.
3. Description: In 300 words or less, describe the problem addressed by the proposed symposium, the objective of the symposium, and the impact the proposed symposium will have on AFS members and participants.
4. Format: Indicate format and length of proposed symposium (for example, a full-day session with 15 speakers followed by a 2-hour panel discussion; a 2-hour session with 5 speakers).
5. Moderator: Identify who will serve as moderator for the symposium.
6. Audiovisual Needs: List anticipated audiovisual requirements (for example, a video cassette recorder projector or slide projector). Also, list special seating requirements (for example, after break a panel discussion with seating for 10 panel members will be needed).
7. Speakers and Topics: Using the following column headings, provide the name, potential title or topic, and confirmed status for each speaker.

Name

Title/Topic

Confirmed (Yes/No)

1.
2.

8. Sponsors(s): A sponsor is not required, but if applicable, indicate sponsorship.

The Southern New England chapter will consider sponsorship of symposia organized by chapter members and of general interest to the chapter membership. Subunit sponsorship generally involves providing a letter of support for the symposia idea, generally enhancing the probability that the symposia will be supported by the program committee. Chapter members interested in obtaining chapter sponsorship for a symposium idea should contact SNEC-AFS President, Chris Powell (Phone: 401-789-0281).

Submit all materials (symposium proposals, contributed paper abstracts, and poster abstracts) via e-mail to C. Paola Ferreri at cpf3@psu.edu. Format all submissions in WordPerfect™ (version 6.1 or earlier), Word™ (version 6.0 or earlier) or ASCII; use a standard 12-point font and left justification only. If you cannot use e-mail, submit a 3.5" floppy diskette or, as a last resort, a hard copy to C. Paola Ferreri, School of Forest Resources, 207 Ferguson Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. Late submissions and facsimiles will not be accepted. A more detailed Call for Papers is located in the September 1997 issue of *Fisheries* 22(9):6-7.

AWARDS

Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award Winner - *Courtney Stirling Casey*

The Southern New England Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is proud to recognize **Courtney Stirling Casey** (University of Rhode Island) as the winner of the Saul B. Saila Best Student Paper Award at the Chapter's Summer 1997 meeting in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Courtney's presentation, "Length-at-Maturity of Female Summer Flounder (*Paralichthys denotatus*)" was co-authored by Bruno Soffientino, Catalina Martinez, and Jennifer Specker of the University of Rhode Island, and Mark Terceiro and Frank Almeida of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The following is the abstract from Courtney's presentation:

The determination of maturity stages of female summer flounder have historically been made through macroscopic examination of the ovary and microscopic examination of the oocytes. Morse (1981) examined fish inhabiting the northwest Atlantic during 1974-1979 and estimated L_{50} (length at which 50% of the females are mature) to be 30-33 cm based on oocyte diameter measurements. Fish sampled from the same population during 1985-1989 and analyzed by gross macroscopic examination of the ovary estimated the L_{50} to be 28 cm (O'Brien et al., 1996). Using techniques that allow for higher resolution of reproductive status preliminary evidence from samples collected during the Autumn of 1996 suggest that the L_{50} for this population may have increased during the last decade. In our analyses, maturity was first assigned based upon microscopic examination of hematoxylin-eosin stained sections of ovarian tissue. Subsequently, radioimmunoassay results corroborated the expectation that fish classified as mature based upon histological analysis had significantly higher plasma estradiol levels than fish classified as immature. Future work will use these techniques to analyze a larger sample size in an effort to develop a more highly resolved maturity schedule for the summer flounder population.

NED AFS Best Student Paper Award - *Scott Ward*

Scott Ward of the University of Connecticut received the NED AFS Best Student Paper Award at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference for his presentation entitled "Bioaccumulation and biomagnification of mercury in two warmwater fish communities." The paper was co-authored by Rob Neumann and Bob Hanten. Congratulations Scott.

Chapter Awards Highlight Accomplishments of Individuals and Organizations

The Southern New England Chapter recognized the professional accomplishments of four individuals and one organization by presenting five awards at the Summer Chapter meeting in Woods Hole. The following profiles each award recipient:

Outstanding Organization Award: *CT Dept. of Environmental Protection - Fisheries Division*

The chapter recognized the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Fisheries Division, as the recipient of the 1997 Outstanding Organization Award. In 1994, CT DEP fisheries staff recognized that resource management needs were increasing and public and fiscal support for management was declining. Based on these trends, they projected a \$600,000 budget shortfall in 1996 if the agency continued to conduct and pursue the currently mandated programs. During some internal brainstorming sessions the staff identified general issues and problems that were contributing to these trends and determined they needed a new and different way to address them. The staff decided to increase public involvement in resource management in Connecticut. The Division invited representatives from conservation organizations, other government and academic organizations, sportsman's organizations, fishing industry representatives the media and unaffiliated anglers to participate in an advisory group. This diverse group was charged with assessing problems facing fisheries in Connecticut and recommending strategies to solve these problems and implement solutions. The group continues to evaluate DEP performance and make recommendations for changes in the areas of public access, public awareness, program review and resource management. The DEP, responsive to the recommendations, continues to work with this advisory group to effect changes in the way fishery resources are managed. This demonstrates an openness and willingness to change that is atypical of many government agencies and deserves recognition.

Citizen Aquatic Conservation Award: *Rick Larsen*

Rick Larsen was recognized for taking innovative and proactive steps to conserve aquatic resources, not through adversarial confrontation, but by building cooperative community-level, win-win relationships among stakeholders with diverse special interests.

Rick lives in the Town of Montville, Connecticut, and has committed to community-based problem solving. In 1992 he co-founded a citizen's environmental group - the Ecology Club of Montville - to promote and perform activities that improve the ecology and environment of the town. In 1996, Rick lead the Ecology Club effort to coordinate local businesses, athletic boosters and soccer club members to purchase and install a practice kicking wall made from 100% recycled materials.

Also in 1996, Rick spearheaded an effort to create a community partnership, the Montville Environmental and Economic Cooperative. Over 25 business, municipal, tribal groups and residential have joined the Cooperative to work on projects to improve environmental quality and economic development within the Town of Montville. One of the Cooperative's projects is the Oxoboxo River watershed restoration project. Activities include identifying and assessing resources, restoring or recreating wetlands, improving public access through land acquisitions for greenways, developing a self guided nature/historical trail connecting the multiple dams along the river and locating pollutant sources in the watershed and monitoring the watershed health. As a Inland Wetlands Commissioner, Rick is currently leading an effort to form a partnership among Montville High School student environmental club, a local contractor and a business to recreate an open water wetland area. These activities can and should serve as a model for future aquatic conservation efforts.

Citizen Aquatic Conservation Award: *Mike Piquette*

Mike Piquette was recognized for his years of volunteer service in the protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement of coldwater fisheries resources throughout Connecticut. Mike is a long standing member and leader in the Connecticut Council of Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association (HFFA), a founding member of the Connecticut Trout Anglers Coalition (Contact) and the Housatonic Coalition the (Coalition), and has served on the Department of Environmental's Fisheries Task Force (Task Force).

In his service to these organizations, Mike has and continues to lead many conservation functions. He is current chair of the Conservation Committee of HFFA, where he has organized the group's volunteer efforts. These efforts have included river clean-ups, expanded private trout stocking, and assisting state agency fish surveys, trout fry stocking and posting special management areas. He also serves as the organization's secretary.

With Trout Unlimited, Mike serves as representative to and Chairmen of, the Housatonic Coalition. The Coalition represents the combined efforts of four river conservation of sport fishing groups dedicated to conserving cold water fisheries of the Housatonic River. Under Mike's leadership, the Coalition and its member groups are directing their efforts to ensure that the hydropower stations are licensed and operated in ways that restore and conserve the river's aquatic health. This is an extremely intensive effort, which Mike has accepted happily. The long term implications will be a legacy for the next two generations of river users.

His service to Contact and the Task Force provide critical direction to the state management officials, guiding actions that effect fishing recreationist across the state. Foremost among them are assistance in crafting new regulations, strategies to improve fishing access, and even expanding base funding for the fisheries agency.

Through out these efforts, Mike has epitomized the citizen conservationist. He is both an advocate for the resource and supporter of state's management team. Our jobs would all be much easier if we had more of him to go around.

Award of Excellence: *John (Jack) Pearce*

The career of this year's Award of Excellence recipient has been highlighted by significant contributions to scientific research, education, and administration related to Marine Fisheries Science in the northeastern United States. He graduated as valedictorian from Humbolt State University, and earned a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Washington. He completed an NIH post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Copenhagen, a post-doctoral appointment at the Scottish Marine Biological Laboratory, and an NSF Appointment with the Systematics-Ecology Program at the Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, MA). He was an Assistant Professor at Humboldt State University from 1965- 1967.

Since 1967, he has contributed to the scientific investigation and conservation of marine resources in the Northeastern United States. From 1967-1984, he directed the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Environmental Studies Program at the Sandy Hook Laboratory (New Jersey). In 1984, he became the first director of NOAA's National Estuarine Program Office, and served as the Deputy Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (National Marine Fisheries Service) and Officer-In-Charge of the Woods Hole Laboratory from 1985-1995.

His scientific expertise is routinely sought in both the national and international scientific arenas. He was appointed by New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean to chair two Blue Ribbon Investigative Committees that focused on ocean pollution and medical wastes on coastal beaches (1987-1990). From 1988-1995, he served on the Gulf of Maine Working Group and Council, an interstate/provincial organization set up to conserve the coastal and shelf waters and habitats of the Gulf. He also served as Chair of the Subcommittee on "Finding Solutions to Pollution to Protect Aquatic Ecosystems", for the Water Environment Federation's Water Quality 2000 Program. Most recently, he was appointed as a Representative to the Gulf of Maine Regional Marine Research Board, an organization charged with planning research priorities and allocating funding to establish benchmarks for biological, chemical, and physical factors in the Gulf of Maine.

In the international arena, He has actively served on several committees and working groups of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. He was the first U.S. citizen elected to chair a standing committee of ICES (Marine Environmental Quality Committee) and has continued his service with ICES since 1975. He also served as a member of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Committee to draft the Second United Nations Report on the "State of the World's Oceans" (UNEP-GESAMP, 1991).

He has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society, serving on the Professionalism and Publication Awards Committees, and serving as an Associate Editor of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management from 1991-1993. During his career, He has maintained a highly production research program, publishing over 100 papers on benthic ecology, symbiosis in marine organisms, effects of pollution, and long-term ecological monitoring.

Although he retired from the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1996, he continues to contribute to his expertise in Marine Science on a voluntary basis. He is presently serving as the Scientific Editor of Fishery Bulletin, serves as the North American Editor of the Marine Pollution Bulletin, and is the U.S. Representative on the Editorial Board of Fisheries Research. He continues to conduct research on parasitic pea crabs including their distribution and recruitment, and the cumulative effects of urbanization and industrialization on living marine resources and their estuarine and coastal shelf habitats. He also continues to serve as a volunteer for mentoring programs sponsored by the Falmouth School System and the New England Aquarium.

WANTED - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I have really enjoyed my time as editor of the SNEC newsletter but feel it is time to pass the job on to a new person. Editing the newsletter is a great way to meet many of the members of the Chapter and to keep up on events and issues affecting fisheries in our area. Anyone interested in editing the newsletter or co-editing can contact either myself or Chris Powell. Thanks to all of you who have assisted me during my tenure by providing input and guidance.

WANTED - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

His contributions to marine science have been recognized through his appointment as a Fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists, and the New Jersey Marine Science Consortium. He has also received the Special Award of Merit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a Gold Medal from the U.S. Department of Commerce for his leadership in research on marine pollution effects.

Irwin Alperin Membership Service Award: *Brian Murphy*

The 1997 recipient was unanimously nominated by the Executive Committee and recommended by the Professionalism committee based on his years of service to the Chapter as Chair (and often sole member) of the Program Development Committee. He has taken the lead role in organizing the program at eight Chapter meetings from 1993 to 1996. Not only has he taken the responsibility for the program, but also has often been directly involved in arranging meeting facility logistics which entails considerable work. Under his leadership, the Chapter meeting programs have expanded dramatically, achieved new levels of consistency, explored new topic areas with invited speakers and featured guests, expanded to include trade shows and our first two-day meeting in over a decade. Although Brian may have thought that he could accept the award and ride off into the sunset, he was coincidentally elected as the Chapter's incoming Secretary/Treasurer, insuring that the Chapter will benefit from at least three more years of Brian's leadership!

Award Nominations Sought

The Professionalism Committee seeks nominations for four awards established by the Southern New England Chapter. These awards recognize the outstanding contributions that SNEC individual members, professional organizations, and citizens' organizations make to professional activities and aquatic resource conservation. These awards are:

Award of Excellence - The **Award of Excellence** recognizes an AFS member who has made exceptional contributions to the field(s) of fishery administration, education, management or research. Criteria for the award can include significant publications, exceptional service, outstanding teaching or training of students, important discoveries or inventions, or other major contributions to the advancement of fishery science.

Irwin Alperin Outstanding Member Award - The **Membership Service Award** recognizes a Chapter member who has made outstanding contributions to the Chapter and/or the Parent Society. Criteria for this Award include significant service to AFS through volunteerism, active participation in standing or ad-hoc committees, increasing public awareness of SNEC and AFS activities, encouraging student involvement/membership, membership recruiting, or other important contributions that advance Chapter and Profession goals.

Citizens Aquatic Conservation Award - The **Citizens Aquatic Conservation Award** recognizes an individual or individuals from outside the fisheries profession that have made an outstanding contribution to conservation or the fisheries profession in Southern New England. Criteria for this award include activities that 1) protect, conserve or restore aquatic habitat and fisheries, 2) improve sustainable recreational and commercial fishery opportunities, 3) support federal, state, tribal, or private management and research agencies responsible aquatic resources, or 4) otherwise support the stewardship of aquatic resources or the enrichment of the fisheries profession.

Outstanding Organization Award - The **Outstanding Organization Award** recognizes academic, governmental, private, or tribal organizations and units for their current or historic advances in the stewardship of aquatic ecosystems, advancement of fisheries science, or service to the profession. Criteria for this award include exemplary activities to 1) protect, conserve or restore aquatic ecosystems, 2) improve sustainable recreational and commercial fishery opportunities, 3) develop new scientific methods, equipment, computer software, etc., 4) improve interactions of their organizations with aquatic resource user groups and the general public, or 5) enhance the status and visibility of the fisheries profession.

Letters nominating individuals or groups for these awards or questions concerning the awards program should be directed to the Chair of the Professionalism Committee. Nominations for each Award must be in writing and accompanied by a nominative justification, not to exceed two pages, but in sufficient detail for the Committee to make a sound judgement in the selection process. **The deadline for nominations is March 15, 1998.** Clearly, there are outstanding individuals and organizations in our region worthy of chapter recognition. Please take the time to nominate these deserving individuals and organizations. Russell Brown, Professionalism Chair, National Marine Fisheries Service - Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097. Phone: 508-495-2380; FAX 508-495-2393; Email: Russell.Brown@noaa.gov.

Student Membership Grants Available

The Southern New England Chapter sponsors up to 10 Student Membership Grants per year for students who are interested in becoming members of the American Fisheries Society. The grants provide a one-year student membership to the American Fisheries Society. The purpose of the program is to allow students to "test drive" the parent society and evaluate the importance of professional involvement in the development of their fisheries careers. Grants are now being awarded for the 1998 membership year. Criteria are as follows:

- (1) The student is one of the first ten to apply in any year.
- (2) The student must be nominated by a faculty member (the letter should include reasons why the student is deserving of the grant).
- (3) The student attends school in Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island.
- (4) The student is an upper-division undergraduate or beginning graduate student

Faculty members should encourage interested fisheries students to apply for grants - Remember that students who are not members of the society do not get this newsletter! Students who are involved in establishing the campus network with the Student Affairs Committee are especially encouraged to apply.

Membership grant applications can be downloaded from the chapter's website (<http://www.wh.whoi.edu/snecafs/docs/membawrd.htm>) or can be sent by calling or emailing Russell Brown (Phone: 508-495-2380; email: Russell.Brown@noaa.gov).

Recent Fisheries Graduate Degrees Awarded

The SNEC would like to create a regular feature in the newsletter announcing recently completed theses and major papers. For this issue, thanks to Dr. Mather, we have submissions from the University of Massachusetts. We need your help to make further issues representative of all the Universities within the SNEC area. Congratulations to all the authors listed below!

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RECENT FISHERIES GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED

Student name: Heidi Golden	Thesis title: U.S. federal fishery enforcement programs affecting New England fisheries
Thesis title: The trophic interaction of young-of-year Arctic grayling, <i>Thymallus arcticus</i> , in an Arctic tundra stream	Degree: M.S., 1995
Degree: M.S., 1997	Advisor: John G. Boreman, Jr.
Advisor: Linda Deegan	
Student name: Gabe Gries	Student name: Paul C. Nitschke
Thesis title: Microhabitat use by juvenile Atlantic salmon sheltering during the day in summer and the affects of stream habitat improvements on patterns of diel cover use by brook trout and juvenile Atlantic salmon	Thesis title: Assessing factors that influence cunner (<i>Tautoglabrus adspersus</i>) reproduction and recruitment in Cape Cod Bay
Degree: M.S., 1997	Degree: M.S., 1997
Advisor: Francis Juanes	Advisor: Martha E. Mather and Francis Juanes
Student name: Jarrad T. Kosa	
Thesis title: Large-scale patterns exhibited by a heterogeneously distributed anadromous fish: an evaluation of factors that may influence variations in juvenile river herring abundance across systems	Student name: Fred Scharf
Degree: M.S., 1997	Thesis title: Predator size - prey size relationships and predator dynamics of marine fish on the northeast Continental Shelf
Advisor: Martha E. Mather	Degree: M.S., 1997
	Advisor: Francis Juanes
Student name: Tania A. Lewandowski	Student name: Margo B. Schulze
	Thesis title: Using a field survey to assess potential temporal and spatial overlap between piscivores and their prey, and a bioenergetics model to examine potential consumption of prey, especially juvenile anadromous fish, in the Connecticut River estuary
	Degree: M.S., 1996

Advisor: Martha E. Mather

Student name: David W. Sutherland

Thesis title: Behavior of American shad and blueback herring in an Ice Harbor fishway

Degree: M.S., 1997

Advisor: Boyd E. Kynard

Student name: Phil Vinogradov

Thesis title: The impact of Holyoke Dam on shortnose sturgeon, *Acipenser brevirostrum*, spawning and migration

Degree: M.S., 1997

Advisor: Boyd E. Kynard

Student name: Kevin Whalen

Title: Smolt production and overwinter mortality of Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*, stocked as fry

Degree: Ph.D, 1997

Advisor: Donna Parrish

Student name: Lisa A. Yako

Thesis title: Community interactions influencing juvenile anadromous herring in freshwater: migration cues and predation

Degree: M.S., 1997

Advisor: Martha E. Mather and Francis Juanes

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Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Maine

In an unprecedented action the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has ordered the removal of Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in Augusta, Maine. FERC has denied the applicant's request for relicensing and is instead ordering that the dam be removed at the owners expense. The decision has ramifications nationwide as FERC issues licenses for over 2,000 dams nationwide.

Atlantic Sturgeon

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been petitioned to list Atlantic sturgeon rangewide in the United States under the Endangered Species Act. The Services have initiated a status review of the species to determine if it does warrant listing as threatened or endangered. Relevant information can be submitted to Mary Colligan, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Essential Fish Habitat

On December 19th the National Marine Fisheries published an interim final rule on essential fish habitat. The interim rule will contain guidelines for Fishery Management Councils on the essential fish habitat measures to include in fishery management plans and will also include regulations implementing the consultative requirements for federal and state agency actions that may effect essential fish habitat. The regulations will become effective 30 days after publication, and there will be a 60 day comment period.

i i i i i REMEMBER to Pre-Register for Winter SNAF Meeting !!!
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Registration Packet Enclosed